

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Demonstration Notice 25 – April 15, 2013

Widespread demonstration activity is anticipated between April 15th and April 21st. These activities may include increased attempts to disrupt traffic using construction material debris, burning vehicles, homemade tire spikes, tire fires, demonstrations near economic centers, the throwing of Molotov cocktails, the use of improvised explosive devices, and the use of improvised shotgun-like weapons and/or projectile launchers. Opposition groups have recently stolen cars and detonated explosive devices inside them. Thus far, the detonations have been indiscriminate, caused no injuries, and have not targeted populated areas. The possibility for clashes to take place between government forces and demonstrators is higher during this time period.

The Embassy advises careful planning of travel between April 15th and April 21st. Travelers should allow for additional travel time to their destination due to unforeseen circumstances like demonstrations and additional check points. They should also identify safe haven options along routes of travel, and carry extra supplies in the event they are caught in traffic for long periods of time.

Recently, opposition groups have stolen vehicles and placed gas cylinders and cooking pots with some explosive materials inside the vehicle's cabin. The detonation of these devices caused the windows to blow out and set the vehicle on fire. Please see the attached photos. These photos are representational only; and the exploding items may come in any color or shape. If you observe the placement of these items inside the cabin of a vehicle, protruding wires from the items, and odors emanating from a vehicle, you should leave the area immediately. These stolen vehicles represent a risk when parked near other vehicles. Beginning in mid-February, opposition groups began stealing vehicles from workshops and residences and set them on fire at traffic intersections. The placement of explosive devices inside the cabins of the vehicles is new and opposition groups have stated that they plan to continue this activity. It is important that you remain constantly aware of your surroundings. Immediately report suspicious devices and situations to 999.



Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

It is important to note that there have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens in Bahrain to date. That said, spontaneous and at times violent anti-government demonstrations occur in some neighborhoods, particularly at night and on weekends. These demonstrations have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Participants have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used various other homemade weapons, including isolated use of improvised explosive devices. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in some areas and routinely uses tear gas and stun grenades along with birdshot and other crowd control measures against demonstrators. Violent clashes between security forces and demonstrators can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens living and traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs Internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Country Specific Information for Bahrain, Travel Warnings and Travel Alerts can be found. Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, for callers outside the United States and Canada, a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The [Embassy's web site](http://bahrain.usembassy.gov), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. All U.S. citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

